Only ton years of joys and tears, Of merry and cloudy weather, Have blended our lives together, my love, Have welded our hearts together.

So we'll dream once again of the happy days We timidly stood in the morning With hearts full of love, with the blue skies

And roses our garden adorning And now you are standing again at my side, So fair and so young, my bonny bride, With roses our pathway adorning.

Only ten years of joys and tears, And the sears into pearls are turning; Only ten years of hopes and fears, And now a sweet incesse is burning On the altar of Love, whose diadem Now shimmers and glistens with many a gem Of sanctified sorrow and yearning.

Only ten years of joys and tears, Of merry and cloudy weather, Have blended our lives together, my love,

Have welded our hearts together.

Only ten years of hopes and fearst
Their passing was fleet.
But their living was sweet
In merry and cloudy weather, my leve,
As we've journeyed along together.
— Boston Globe.

THE CLERK'S STORY.

In the fall of 1866 I was employed as a clerk in a general store at a cross roads in southern Indiana. The store, a church and a blacksmith shop, with two residences, made up the buildings, and the families of the merchant and the blacksmith were the only residents. The country about was thickly settled, however, and trade was always good. Before the merchant engaged me he announced that I would have to sleep in the store o' nights, and that unless I had pluck enough to defend the place against marauders be did not want me at any

He showed me a shotgun, a revolver and a spring gun, which were used, or on hand to be used, to defend the place. and the windows were protected with stout blinds and the doors by double locks. The close of the war had drifted a bad population into Indiana. The highways were full of tramps, and there were hundreds of men who had determined to make a living by some other means than labor. Several attempts had been made to rob the store, and it had come to that pass that no clerk

wanted to sleep there alone. The merchant seemed satisfied with answers I gave him, and on a certain Monday morning I went to work. The same night a store about four miles away was broken into and robbed and the clerk seriously wounded. Two nights later three horses were stolen in our neighborhood. At the end of a week a farmer who was on his way home from our store was robbed on the

If I had not been a light sleeper from habit these occurrences would have tended to prevent too lengthy dreams as I lay in my little bedroom at the front of the second story. The revolver was always placed under my pillow, and the shotgan stood within reach. The spring gun was set about midway of the lower floor. It was a double barreled shotgun. each barrel containing a big charge of buckshot, and the man who kicked the string and discharged the weapon would never know what hurt him.

It did not seem possible that any one could break into the store without arousing me. There was no door to my room, and after the people in the neighborhood had gone to bed I could hear the slightest noise in the store. I had looked the place over for a weak spot and had failed to find it, but my own confidence came near proving my destruction. 1 should have told you in describing the store that just over the spot where we set the spring gun was an opening through which we hoisted and lowered such goods as were stored for a time on the second floor. When not in use this opening was covered by a trap door.

Toward evening on the tenth day of my clerkship I hoisted up a lot of pails and tubs, and had just finished when trade became so brisk that I was called to wait upon customers. Later on I saw that I had left the trap door open, and I said to myself that I would let it go until I went to bed. The store had the only burglar proof safe for miles around, and it was customary for the farmer who had a hundred dollars or so to leave it with us. He received an envelone in which to enclose it, and he could take out or put in as he liked. On your fist, while the third, who was rethis evening four or five farmers came in to deposit, and as I afterward figured up we had about \$1,500 in the safe.

There were two strange faces in the crowd that evening. One belonged to a roughly dressed, evil eyed man, who announced himself as a drover, and the other as a professional tramp. I gave the latter a piece of tobacco and some crackers and cheese, and he soon went away, and we were so busy up to 9 o'clock that I did not give the drover much attention. When we came to shut up the store he had gone from my mind altogether. We counted up the cash, made some charges in the day book, and it was about 10 o'clock when the merchant left. I was tired, and I took a candle and made the circuit of the store, set the spring gun and went to bed. I had to pass within six feet of the trap door as I went to my room, but I did not see it. It was a rather chilly night in October, and we had no fires yet, and as I got under the blankets the warmth was so grateful that I soon fell asleep. It was the first night I had gone to bed

without thinking of robbers and won-dering how I should act in case they came in. I did not know when I fell saleep. I suddenly found myself half upright in bed, and there was an echo in the store, as if the fall of something had aroused me. It was I o'clock, and I had been asleep almost three hours. Leaning on my elbow I strained my ears to catch the slightest sound, and after a minute I heard a movement down stairs. While I could not say what it was, a sort of instinct told me that it was made by some

Everything on the street was as silent as the grave. My window curtain was up, and I could see that the sky had thickened and was very black. I did not wait for the noise to be repeated. I was just as sure that some one was in the store as if I had already seen him, and I crept softly out of bed, drew on my trousers and moved out into the big room, having the revolver in my hand.
There was no door at the head of the stair. I intended to go there and listen down the stairway.

As I was moving across the room, which was then pretty clear of goods as

course to reach it. It was terribly dark in the room, and one unfamiliar with the place would not have dared to move a foot. Half way to the trap I got down on hands and knoes, and as I reached the opening I settled down on my stomach. There was a dim light down stairs. That settled the fact that some one was in the store. After a minute I heard whispers, then the movement of feet, then a certain sound which located the intruders to a foot. They were at the

safe in the front of the store. I drew myself forward and looked down the opening. I could see a lighted candle and two or three dark figures at the safe, and I could hear the combination being worked. My first thought was to drop my hand down and open fire in their direction, but I remembered that we had so many articles hanging up that no bullet had a chance of hitting the men. I was wondering what to do, when I heard one of the men whisper:

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"It's all d-d nonsense. We might work here a week and not hit it."

"But I told you to bring the tools and you wouldn't," protested another.
"Oh, dry up!" put in a third voice.
"What we want to do is to go up and bring that counter hopper down, and make him open the box."

"I'll give the cussed thing a few more trials," said the first man, and I heard him working away again. My eyes could not have told me the number of robbers, but my ears had. There were three of them, and they were no doubt desperate and determined men. They speke of bringing me down to open the safe, as if no resistance was anticipated or taken into account. Indeed, they might well reason that they had me at their mercy. The rain was now falling. the night was very dark, and a pistol shot in the store could not have been

heard in either of the dwellings. If they had reflected that I might be armed they would have offset it with the fact that I was a boy of 18, with a girl's face and probably a girl's nerve. I don't deny that I was a bit rattled, and that my lip would quiver in spite of me, but I was at the same time fully determined to protect the store if it cost me my life. How to get at the fellows was what bothered me, but that trouble was soon solved.

"There," whispered the man at the combination as he let go of it, "I won't fool here another minute. That kid knows the combination, and we can make him work it. Come on."

They were coming up stairs. The best place for me would be at the head of the stairway. The stairs had a half turn in them, and I would fire upon the first man who came within range. I heard the men coming back to the stairway and my nerve gave way. It wasn't from cowardice, but the knowledge that I was to kill a human being upset me. I decided to retreat to my room, and if they persisted in coming that far I would shoot. The trio had rubbers on their feet, but they came up stairs without trying very hard to prevent making a

The one who came first had the candle. and as he got to the head of the stairs 1 saw a knife in his other hand. They made no delay in approaching my room, and with a great effort I braced myself for what I saw must happen. They could not see me until within three or four feet of the door, and their first intimation that I was out of bed was when they heard me call out:

"Stop, or I'll shoot!" I had them covered with the weapon, and for fifteen seconds there was a dead man with the candle dashed it on the floor, and I suppose they meant to rush in on me in the dark, but I checkmated it by opening fire. They then either meant to retreat down stairs or toward the rear of the floor, for I saw the three together moving off, and fired at their dim figures. Three seconds later there was a great shout of horror, followed by the tremendous report of the double barreled spring gun, and then there was al-

I think I stood in the door shaking like a leaf for fully three minutes before the silence was broken by a groan. Then i came to me that the robbers had falle: through the open door upon the core leading to the gun. I struck a match lighted my own candle, and going to the opening saw three bodies lying be low. Running back to the bedroom to recharge my revolver, I then went down stairs to investigate.

It was as I suspected. The three had pitched down together. The top of one's head had been blown off by the shot, a second had a hole in his chest as big as sponsible for the groans, was severely wounded in both legs. It was three months before he could be put on trial. and he then got four years in prison. The whole thing was a put up job. The "drover" was a Chicago burglar called "Clawhammer Dick," and he had hidden himself in the store that night, and then let his pals in by the back door. They had a horse and wagon in the rear of the building, and the plan was to rob the store of goods as well as to get at the money in the safe. A bit of carelessness on my part not only saved the store and probably my life, but wiped out a very desperate gang. — Boston Commercial Bulletin.

The Ball Player. Bobby-Do you like your new house? Little Johnnie-Yes. It has a vacant lot next door .- Epoch. RAILWAY BREVITIES.

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Surveys are nearly completed for an extension of the Florida Central and Peninsula railroad of 285 miles from Quincy, Fla., to a connection with the railroads centering at Birmingham, Ala.

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